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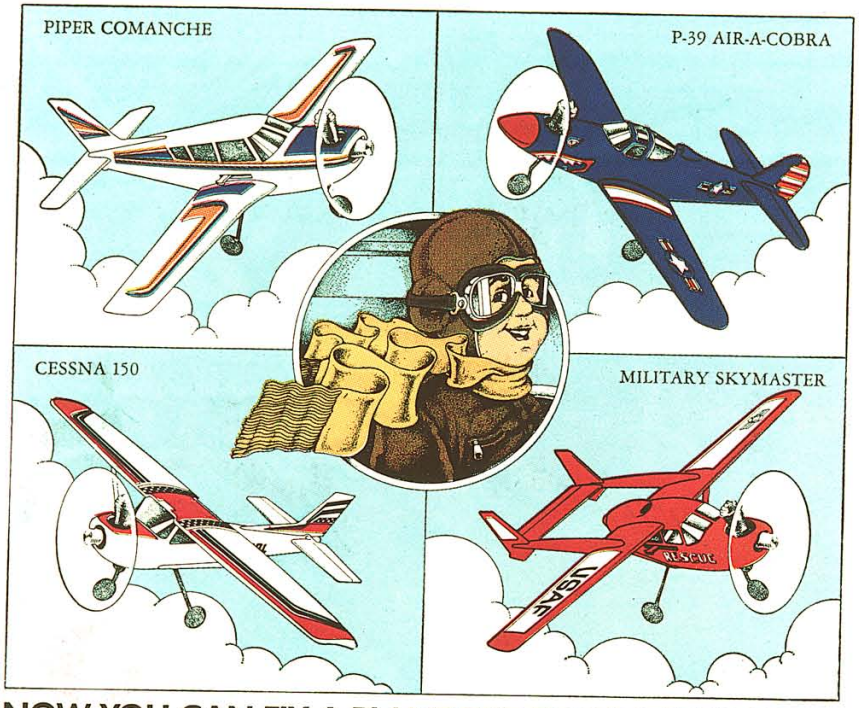

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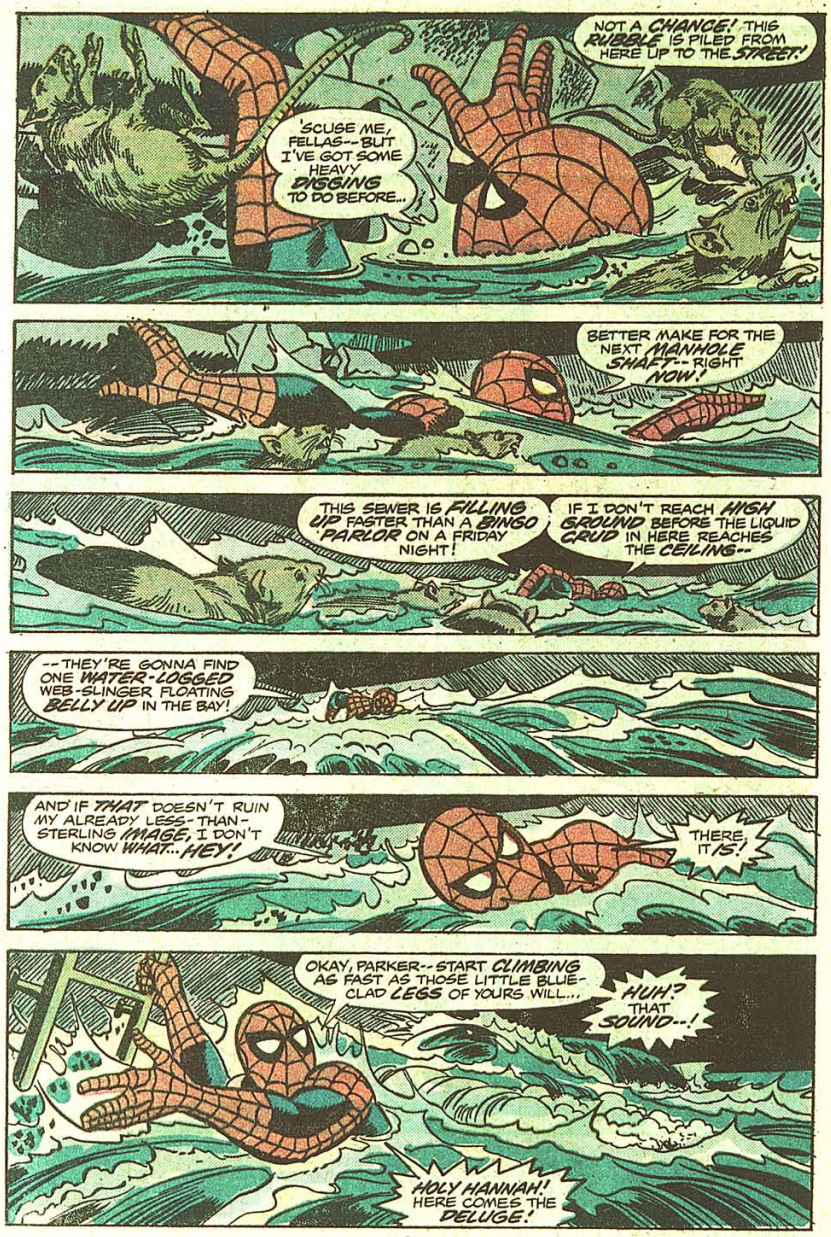

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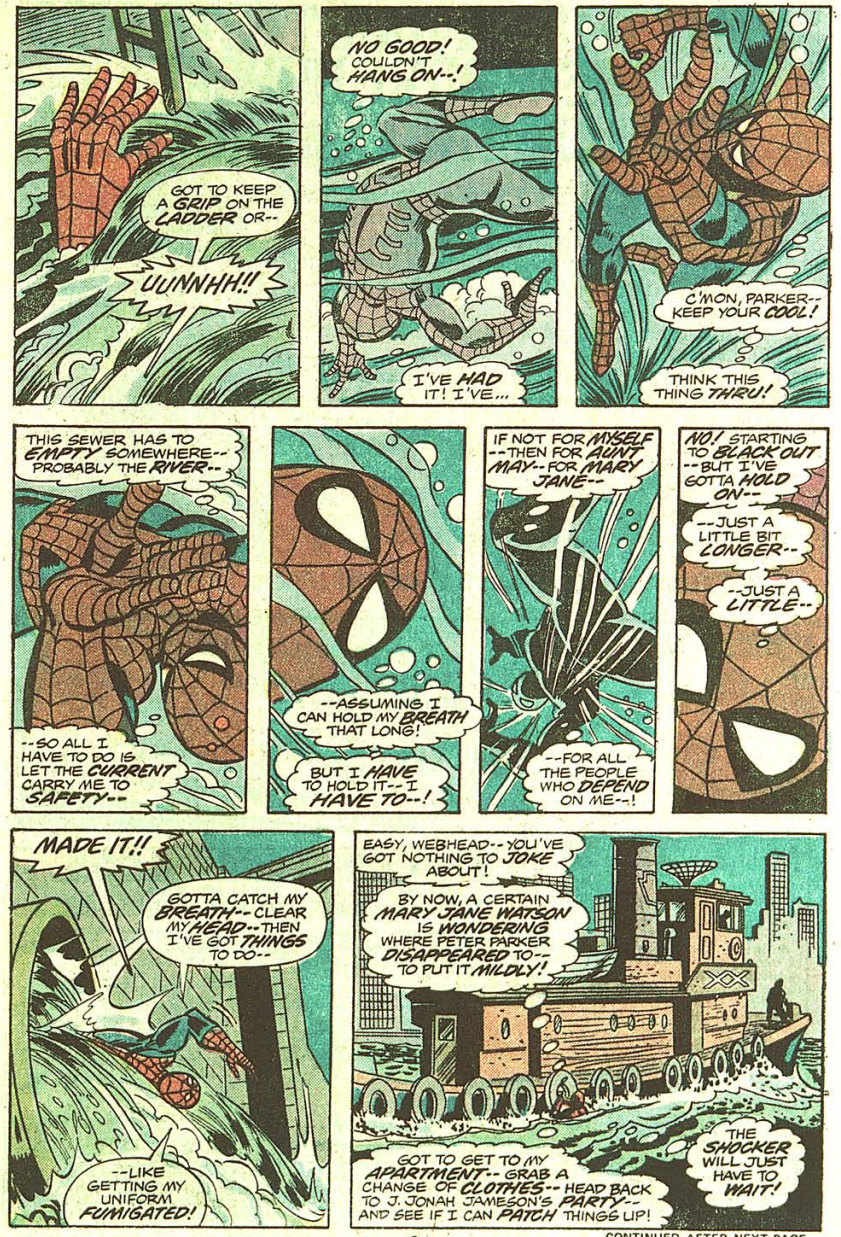

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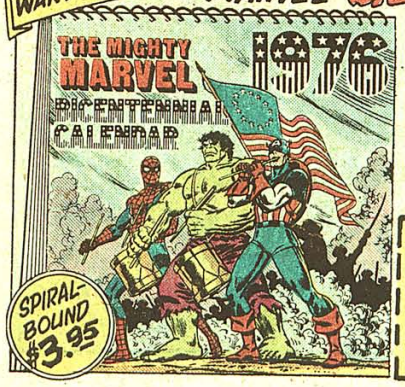

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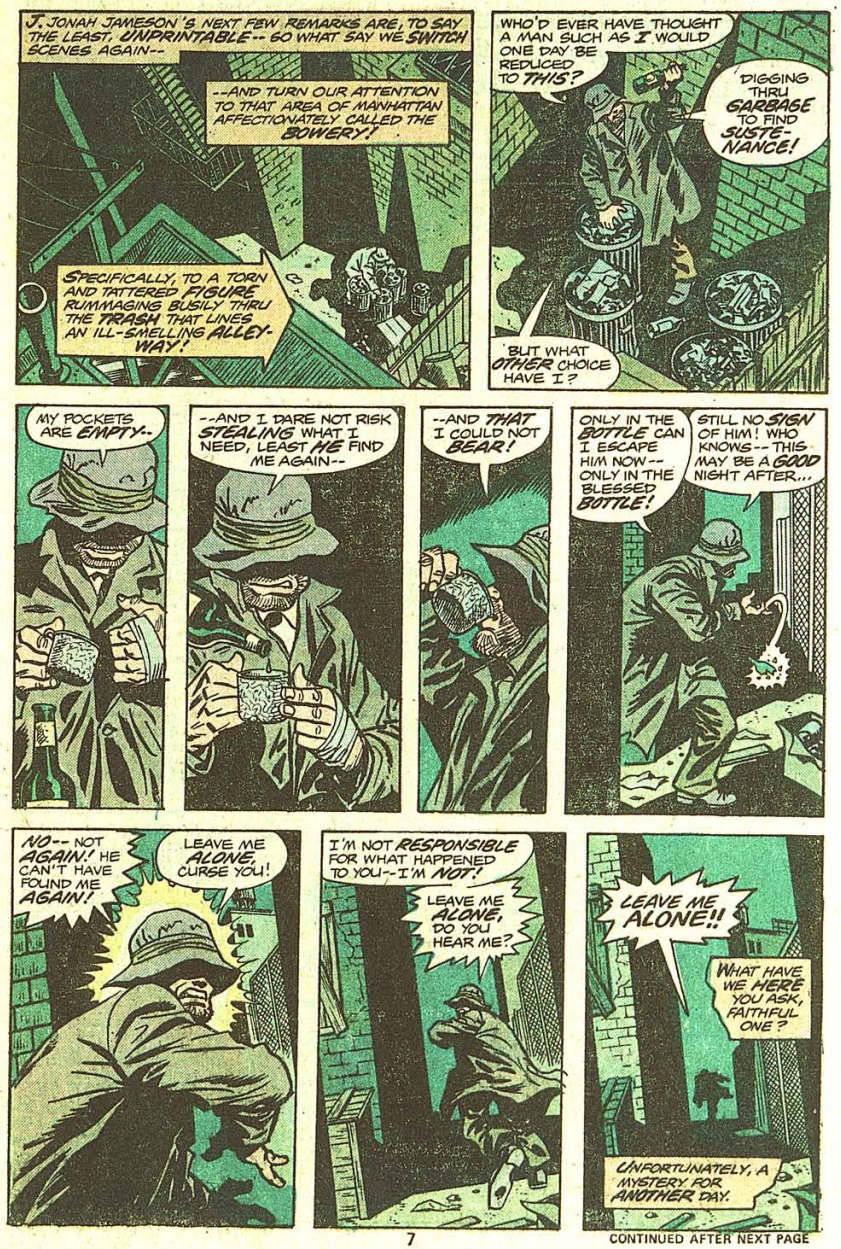

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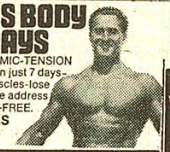

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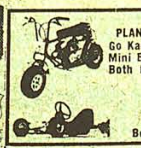

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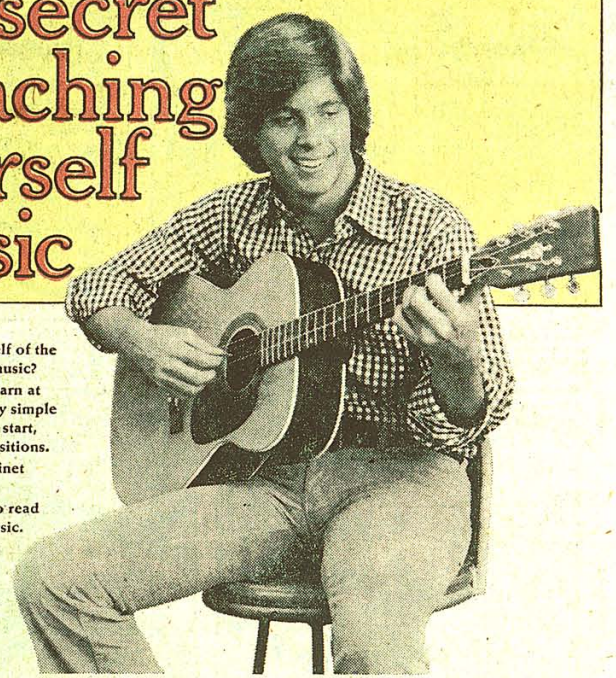

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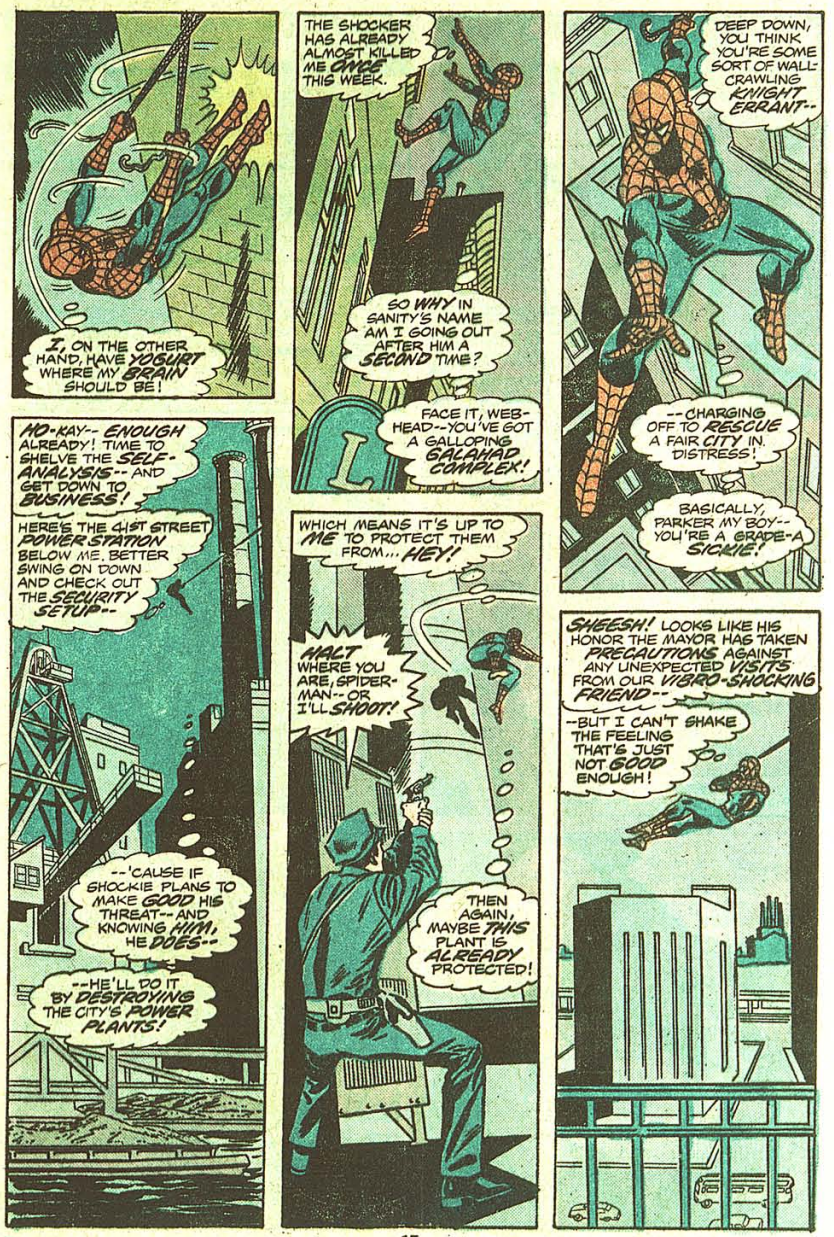

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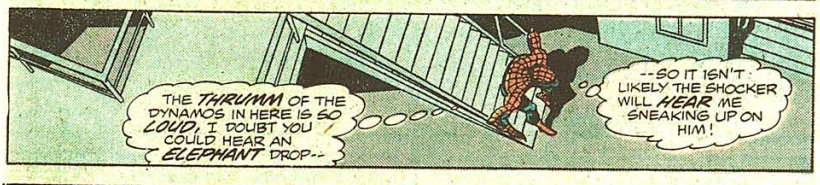

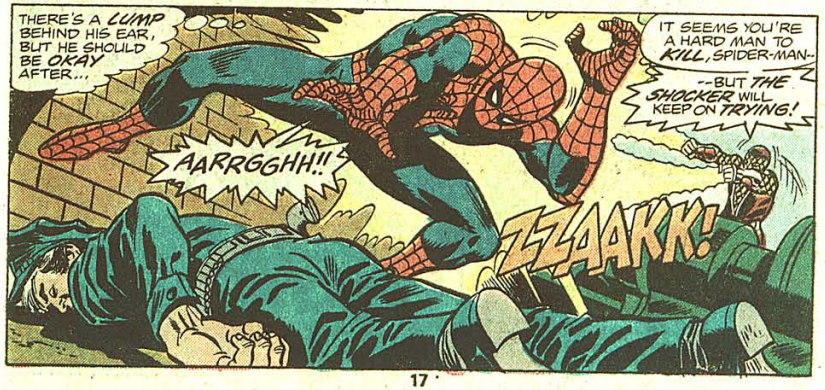

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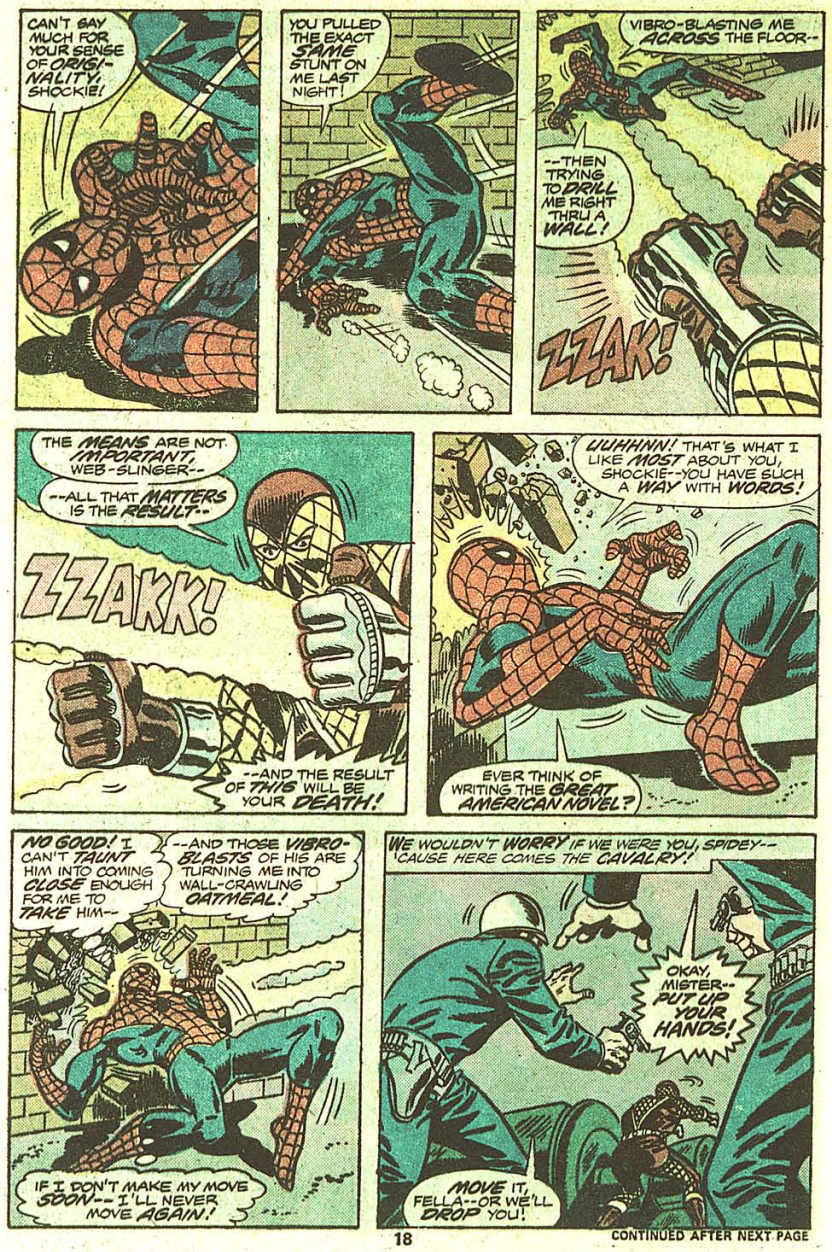

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

Dear Bullpen Gang,

Congratulations. SPIDER-MAN #149 was absolutely MARVELous. The art, the story, and the plot were fantastic. I was very surprised to learn that the Jackal was Professor Warren. How you guys keep coming up with these great plots I just don't know. But, I think you made one little mistake. On the cover page the Jackal is lighting the fuse to the bomb. Inside the story the bomb was set to go off by itself.

D. W. Miller
Rt. 1 Box 15
Greenville, VA 24440

Well, D.W. (no relation to our MARVELous movie buff in POWER-MAN, are you?), we're glad you liked the story in SPIDER-MAN #149, only— the slight difference between the cover and the interior story did not constitute mistakes. It was all done very intentionally.

Y'see, the purpose of the cover is to attract the reader who wouldn't search the stands for days for the thing *anyway*, so we take a bit of artistic and literary license to emphasize the most dramatic point in the story.

So there's no mistake. Just an attempt to convert *other* readers who may not have known that SPIDER-MAN is (as you put it) "absolutely MARVELous."

Comprende?

Dear Marvel,

I did not complain (much) when you brought Gwen back; I was only worried that she might interfere in Pete-M.J.'s relationship. Happily, you have resolved the whole episode well.

One thing I was bothered about in SPIDER-MAN #149, though, was Spidey's inability to figure out if he was a clone or not. It's very simple to determine, really; the most obvious non-clone characteristic of all is:

Scare. A clone, raised in an ultra-protected environment, would have none. Neither would it have laugh lines or wrinkles.

Surely, with all the troubles Spidey has seen, he has a tiny crease or two on his brow, tonsils and/or appendix missing, burns, scratches - and some fresh, painful gashes scattered about his body, courtesy of the Jackal's last skirmishes with Our Hero.

If the surviving Spider-Man could *not* feel these results of an active life, chances are that he is a clone.

Carol A. Strickland
5316 Blue Water Place
Fayetteville, NC 28301

We didn't mention in ish #150 exactly *how* Curt Connors was supposed to deduce from his series of tests whether or not the surviving Spidey was a clone, but we're sure the item you mentioned was among them. And as you could tell yourself if you read the story (which we suspect you did) Spidey's *own* test was about as conclusive as any!

And as you've been seeing these past few issues, Carol, Pete and M.J.'s relationship has been continuing... and all we can suggest is that you keep your eyes glued to upcoming events in Mr. Parker's private life— they'll knock you outta your tree!

Dear Stan:

So the Gwen Stacy Saga finally comes to its climax—one which fully matches Jim Starlin's tales of the Kree-Skrull War. In a word: INCREDIBLE! I wouldn't say it was the best thing Marvel has ever done—the competition is too close among the various Marvel mags to be able to do that—but it was up there among the best.

Concerning Peter Parker: Increasingly, I am having doubts about it. Hasn't Marvel gone beyond the point where the old "secret identity" gimmick is necessary, a hold-over from the Superman thing? And I realize that the series would be irrevocably changed, probably for the worse, if the Peter/Spider-Man duality was to disappear. But—you're going to have to face it some day. Sooner or later, somebody will spot Peter changing his clothes in an alley. What if that somebody is old J. J. J.? The whole thing will be blown wide-open as soon as Jameson can stop his presses and set up an extra. What if you choose to build on the Peter-Mary Jane relationship? Sooner or later, she'll *have* to discover the truth—intuitively, if no other way. If you let their relationship develop normally, at some point the emotional tension in Peter will get to the point that either Mary Jane will notice it, or Peter will be unable to stand the stress of keeping it from her, and tell her. Either way, it's out. (Difficult, when your super-heroes have to also be human beings, isn't it? Keep it up, I wouldn't have it any other way!) Then again somebody may draw the obvious conclusion from the fact that Spidey's appearances and Peter's disappearances seem to occur simultaneously.

Steve Gorton
2132 Glencoe Hills #7
Ann Arbor, MI

Until times change, Steve, and J.J.J. and all of the untrusting readership of the Daily Bugle change their minds about Spidey's role as villain, the old Secret ID will have to stay.

But when the world is ready to accept your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man with open arms... well, who knows?

Dear Stan and Bullpen,

Boy, do you guys owe me one heck of a no-prize! SPIDER-MAN #149 was indeed the best comic I have ever read except for one thing —you had the fight in Shea Stadium. Now think, you guys...remember DAREDEVIL #123? Shea got destroyed. And don't tell me Reed Richards had some spare time and...

Matthew Anton
110 W. 86 St.
NY 10024

Wouldya believe that, since a game was scheduled the very day after Daredevil and the hordes of SHIELD agents destroyed it, every single METS fan in creation rushed down to Shea Stadium to patch it up? (You know how those sports nuts are!)

No?

Well, actually, y'see, Reed Richards had some spare time, and...

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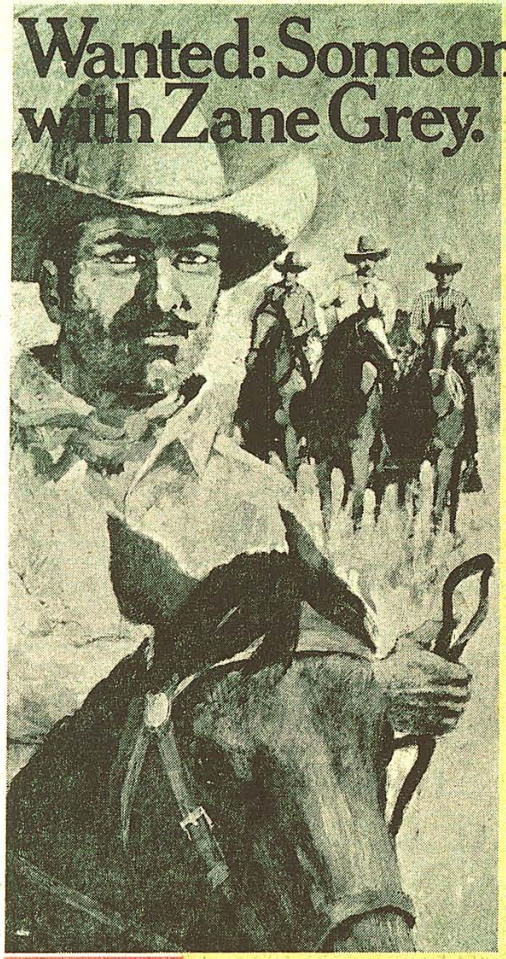

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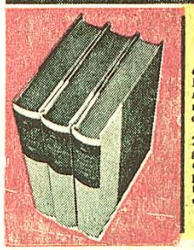

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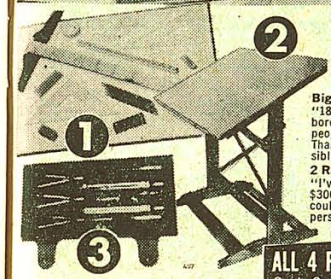

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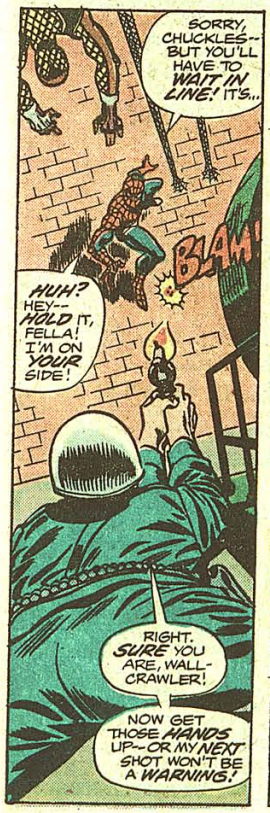

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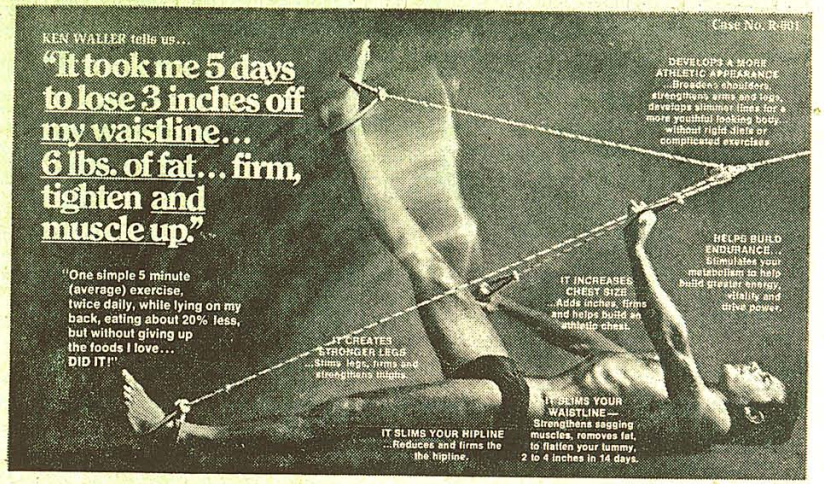

"I saw my muscles start shaping up...right away."

NO RIGID DIETING...
NO COMPLICATED EXERCISES

Using this ingenious "5" Minute Body Shaper Plan for just 14 days has you starting to lose inches and pounds, adding muscle and vigor. Use it in the privacy of your own home. It has been used by athletes, businessmen...anyone wanting that muscular, athletic look fast. It's safe...Medically Approved... and Guaranteed!

Here are 6 reasons why this amazing plan can have you muscling and shaping up...looking years slimmer...in 14 days.

1. It concentrates it's trimming action on your fatty areas, particularly around the waist, that gives you that tired aging look. At the same time, it builds up your shoulders, chest, giving you that athletic look. Because it works most your body muscles at one time—not body part by body part—the Plan stimulates faster trimming action to help you start shaping up to a more youthful athletic body in 14 days.

2. Simple to use. No undressing. Attach it to any door knob, stretch out comfortably on the floor. Do one "5" Minute continuous rhythmic, enjoyable exercise, twice daily, whenever you have the time, even while watching T.V.

3. Designed to Trim Fatty Problem Areas. Choose from 4 different "5" Minute exercises, each created to help trim down the problem fatty deposit areas of your body in just 14 days.

4. No Rigid Dieting. We suggest you temporarily eat 20% less until you reach your normal weight, without giving up any of the foods you love — eat Ice Cream, Cakes, Pasta, whatever! (It's all in the guide.)

5. Safer and Saves Time. No more running to gyms for complicated, exhausting workouts that can strain you. This simple effective Plan, that you do at home...at your office....anywhere....leaves you refreshed.

6. Weighs only 10 Ounces. Fits any wallet size case. Stores anywhere. Travels with you so you never have to miss a trimming session. Remember, it's the daily sessions that trim you down, add muscle and keep you looking lean and strong.

IT'S FUN WITH RESULTS..."5" MINUTES AND OUT.

The Secret Why It Beats Fasting Alone, Making Your Figure Look Years Younger.

Fasting programs, when causing weight loss, unlike our plan usually burn off more active tissue (muscles) which can cause your skin to wrinkle, muscles to sag and create dragging fatigue. Our Plan increases active tissue growth — through the use of the '5' Minute exerciser — while concentrating greater fat loss by (exercise and temporary 20% food reduction) making you look years youngers as you slim and trim. Within the first '5' minutes you use the exerciser, you start burning off fat, speeding up your metabolism to help burn up stored calories, releasing excess water. Helps curb your appetite without suppressants. Increases energy and well being. It's so simple and enjoyable a Plan to use. We guarantee you can stay with it remaining trim where you should and adding muscle where you need it — without re-gaining those inches and pounds. It can put an end to your "gain-and-loss-cycles".

"Here you see me 5 days ago—out of shape" "Imagine in 5 days—gut gone and shaped up"

USE OUR '5' MINUTE BODY SHAPER PLAN FOR 14 DAYS AND WE GUARANTEE YOU THESE RESULTS:

"You Will Lose Inches and Pounds. Improve Your Vitality, Energy, Fitness, Posture, Work Off Body Tensions, Feel and Look Better and Younger—All To Your Satisfaction Within 14 Days If You Follow Our Instructions — Or Your $9.98 Will Be Refunded."

Here's a sampling of what the customers who have shaped up on our Plan tell us happened to them while using the Plan: **"I lost 25 pounds, 5¾ inches off my waist in 14 days," G. C. "lost 32 pounds, 6¾ inches off my waist in 21 days," M. F. " I lost 7 pounds and 5¼ inches off my waistline in 9 days,"** L. S.

They were measured by experts before and after. The results verified, some notarized. Your results may vary depending on how overweight you are and how much time you devote to the exercises. The customers quoted spent 5 to 10 minutes, twice daily and reduced their food intake — temporarily — by about 20%, but none gave up the foods they like.

EXPERTS AND CUSTOMERS AGREE:
It's the no-nonsense way to shape up fast!

START SHAPING UP NOW!

It's America's Most Successful Body Slimmer and Shaper. 600,000 customers have purchased our "5" Minute Plan to slim down — shape-up to build an athletic body fast. Results are proven and some notarized. Our guarantee to you is in writing. Experts agree our plan works and works fast. Now, can you think of any reason for not ordering your "5" Minute Body Shaper Plan and start slimming where you should be slim, shaping up where you should be muscular? For a more athletic looking body start today.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!

See what our "5" Minute Body Shaper Plan can do for you in 14 days. If it does not start shaping you up...adding muscle to your body, return it within 14 days —in good condition—for your $9.98 refund.

Weighs only 10 ounces.

JOE WEIDER Dept. LU/L
"5" MINUTE BODY SHAPER PLAN
Trainer of Champions since 1936
21100 Erwin Street
Woodland Hills, California 91364

Dear Joe: I want to lose inches and pounds. Your promise that I will look leaner and more muscular in just 14 days interests me. Please rush my "5" Minute Exerciser and Illustrated Guide.

I am enclosing $9.98 plus $1.00 (for shipping and handling). Calif. res. add 6% sales tax.
☐ Check, ☐ Money Order, ☐ Cash. $.....
Please allow 3 to 4 weeks delivery.

Name..... Age.....
Address.....
City.....
State..... Zip.....

IN CANADA: 5 Minute Body Shaper, 2875 Bates Road, Montreal, Quebec.

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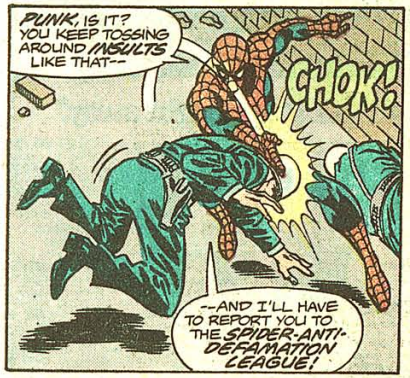

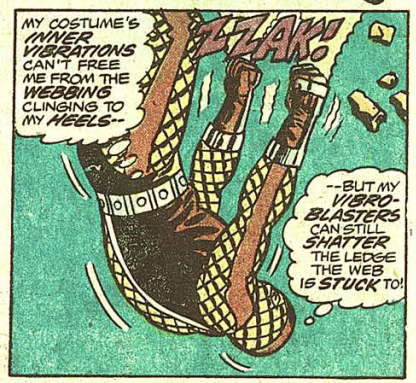

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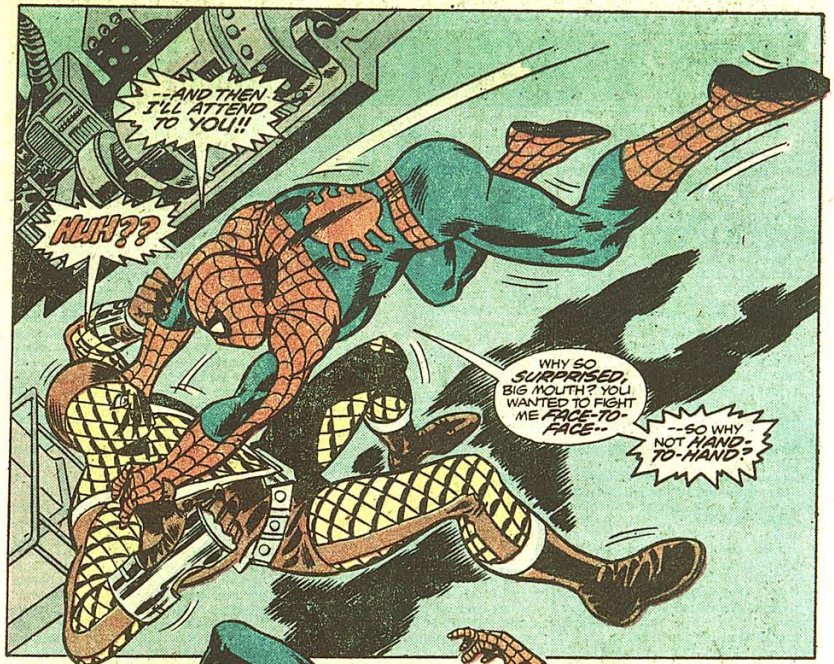

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AN IDIOSYNCRATIC ITINERARY OF INTANGIBLE ILLUSIONS AND IMAGINARY IDEAS INTENDED TO ILLUMINATE YOUR ID!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Betcha didn't know that we publish a lot of different magazines besides the comics! "Oh, yeah? Name one, Stan!" "Okay, I will!" Next time you're blissfully browsing at your local newsstand, notice a great-looking mag that seems to hit you smack between the eyes with a big, bold title that says CELEBRITY. Now, gently reach down and open it to the contents page. Whose name do you see shyly hiding atop the list? Hoo ha! CELEBRITY—from the same lovable company that gave you heartburn and warts— oops, I mean SPIDER-MAN and THOR! In the months that follow, we'll clue you in to some of the other mildly magnificent mags we bestow upon thee— and don't be too surprised if they're totally unexpected. After all, we never said we **don't** produce the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD!

Okay, next item of incredible interest. Not only will the entire civilized world have a full-length, live-action motion picture featuring Spider-Man to cheer about next year, but it looks as though there'll also be another dynamite movie starring ol' green-skin — none other than the Incredible Hulk! Like the man said— movies are better than ever! More details later, as soon as the whole blamed Bullpen stops applying for starring roles! (Honest Irving Forbush told me I oughtta star in the Hulk film, I modestly told him I didn't think I resembled Bruce Banner enough. He said he wasn't talking about Banner-he meant I should play the Hulk! You won't be seeing much of ol' Irv around here from now on.)

And we keep rollin' along. If any of you are near Baltimore, October 13th, I'm supposed to be dispensing the Marvel brand of culture and erudition at a symposium at Johns Hopkins University on that date. So don't say I didn't warn you soon enough for you to make sure you're miles away at that time! Personal note: (To my buddy, Pete Personal) I wanna thank the various college booking agents for all the lecture invitations, but have a heart, fellas— I can't be away from the Bullpen **all** the time. It's against my religion to be outta town on payday! Anyway, I'm hitting as many campuses as I can. Just make sure they don't hit me back!

Well, that wraps it up for now. I've gotta rush out and see if my local book store is carrying SON OF ORIGINS. If so, I wanna tell 'em to put it down 'cause it's kinda heavy! —Okay, I apologize for that one— but it's been a tough day. Anyhow, till we meet again, remember— "aliquando bonus dormitat Homerus!" (Let's see what Brand X can make out of that!)

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! The big news that's tingling the talented taste-buds of every Marvel writer and artist in the batty Bullpen is the sensational switch-over of MARVEL PREMIERE and MARVEL SPOTLIGHT from mags featuring a regular roster of riotous heroes (namely the ever-powerful IRON FIST and the super-sinister SON OF SATAN— **both** of whom have been awarded their own spankin'-new mags, by the way) to a pair of pulsatin' publications premiering totally new heroes and heroines and spotlighting some of Marvel's greatest do-gooders in their own solo adventures. On tap for PREMIERE are the explosive debuts of THE LIBERTY LEGION, WOOD-GOD, and MOON-KNIGHT among others, while set for SPOTLIGHT are single-stories featuring the valiant VISION, the high-flying NIGHT-HAWK, and the sword-wielding saga of SINBAD's seventh voyage. Like we said, we're all itchin' to put to paper some of **our** favorites, and if all this doesn't prove that Mighty Marvel is on the move again... well, try the next few tidbits...

ITEM! While we're waitin' to unleash the long-awaited series starring both THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY and TIGRA, THE WERE-WOMAN, why not take a peek at a couple of fabulous fill-ins called BLOODSTONE and MODRED THE MYSTIC. We've got a hunch these two thrillers will soon be as sought after as the space-soaring SILVER SURFER. And, who knows, if enough of you Wild Ones demand it, you just may have two more munificent mags to add to your captivatin' collections. Remember, there will be only **two** issues each of both these try-outs appearing respectively in MARVEL PRESENTS and MARVEL CHILLERS, so if you want in on a couple of sure-fire collector's items, hurry down to your newsstands right now, 'cause with issue three of both titles, the GUARDIANS and TIGRA will be takin' over.

ITEM! And while we're mentioning a few far-out new features, we've just got to say something nice about RED SONJA, appearing every other month in MARVEL FEATURE, 'cause if we don't, our sensational She-Devil With A Sword may just come lookin' for us.

ITEM! And, while we're speaking of bi-monthly books, we've temporarily cut the INVADERS down to a six-times-a-year schedule to give the Rascally One a breather in between his award-winning CONAN mags, the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR, the Marvel-ous Land Of OZ series, and MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, which our Editor Emeritus is planning to write at long last. Keep it up, Roy— at your current pace, you'll soon be writing as much as speed-demon DOUG MOENCH, perhaps the fastest scripter this side of ol' Smiley himself.

ITEM! As these wondrous words are being written, virtually every member of the Marvel Bullpen has come to New York for the annual July Comicon, and taking advantage of this once-a-year miracle, our cavortin' creators have huddled together to concoct a few zillion new surprises for ya in the next months. Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART and Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN worked out the final stages of their soon-to-be-classic DRACULA/DOCTOR STRANGE team-up, while Rascally ROY THOMAS and Lively LEN WEIN put the finishing touches on a bit of THING/HULK/FANTASTIC FOUR continuity. At the same time, the terrific team of Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH and Dutiful DON PERLIN discussed their newest plans for everyone's favorite shaggy-star himself, WEREWOLF BY NIGHT. Yeah, you heard it here first! Contrary to all rumors, Jack Russell's favorite alter-ego has not gone the way of all out-of-work monsters. Instead, his book will continue coming at ya as always, only now on a bi-monthly basis. The two D's have a few special ideas that they've worked out together, and they just can't wait to hear your reactions. So, if you're a regular reader of WEREWOLF, or you're just someone looking for something a wee bit different, be sure to pick up our favorite lycanthrope on your way back from work or school. We've got a hunch that he won't let ya down.

ITEM! And speaking of bombshells, we're just bustin' to tell ya— The Mighty Marvel Checklist Lives Again! Beginning in just a month or three, we'll be flingin' atcha a whole new page of facts, columns and full-color covers, including all the info you'd ever want to know about what Mighty Marvel's up to that month. And what's more—we'll be changin' the checklist every two weeks, so each and every one of your favorites will surely be mentioned! Keep on the look-out, Frantic One, you **know** how sneaky we can be!

ITEM! Remember how last month we swore we'd let ya know as soon as the FANTASTIC FOUR radio show was playin' in your neighborhood? Well, we still can't detail the exact times or dates it'll be hitting your home town, but here's a partial list of the sensational stations carrying our broadcasts in the coming months. Check your local papers for the exact listings of our Mighty Marvel Megawatt Madness!

Philadelphia	WIOQ FM	Indianapolis	WNAP FM	New Haven-West Haven	WPLR FM
Boston	WBCN FM	Tampa-St. Petersburg	WQSR FM	Syracuse	WOUR FM
Baltimore	WKTK FM	Sacramento	K-108	Knoxville	WROL
San Jose	KSJO FM	Columbus, Ohio	WCOL FM	Fresno	KFYE
Houston	K101 FM	Albany-Schenectady-Troy	WQBK FM	Allentown-Bethlehem-Caston	WSAN
Hartford-New Britain	WPLR FM	San Diego	KGB FM	Jackson, Mississippi	WZZO FM
Kansas City	KUDL FM	Charlotte-Gastonia	WRPL	Baton Rouge	WFMF FM
Nassau-Suffolk	WBAB FM WRCN FM	Orlando	WORL-FM	Tucson	KWFM FM
Seattle-Everett-Tacoma	KZOK FM	Raleigh-Durham	WDBS FM	*-- AND MORE TO COME!*	
		Grand Rapids	WLAV		

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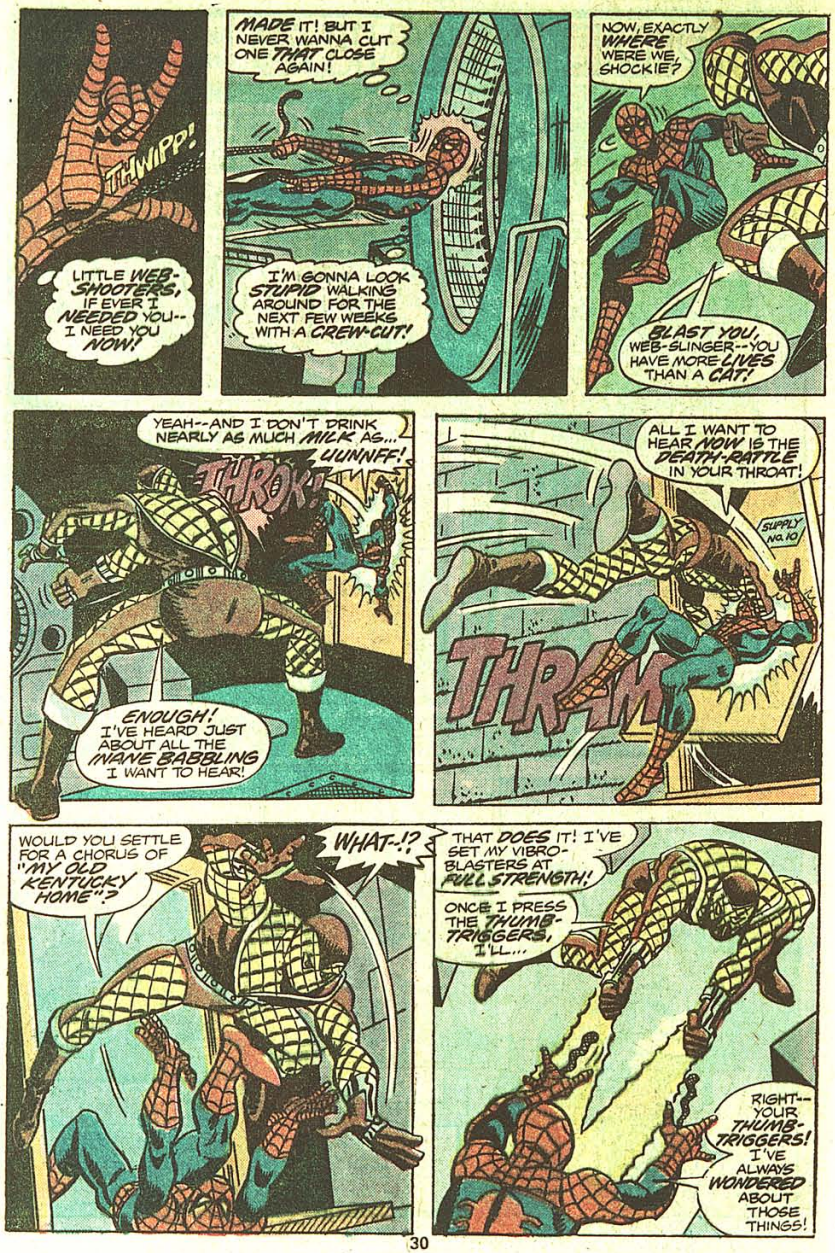

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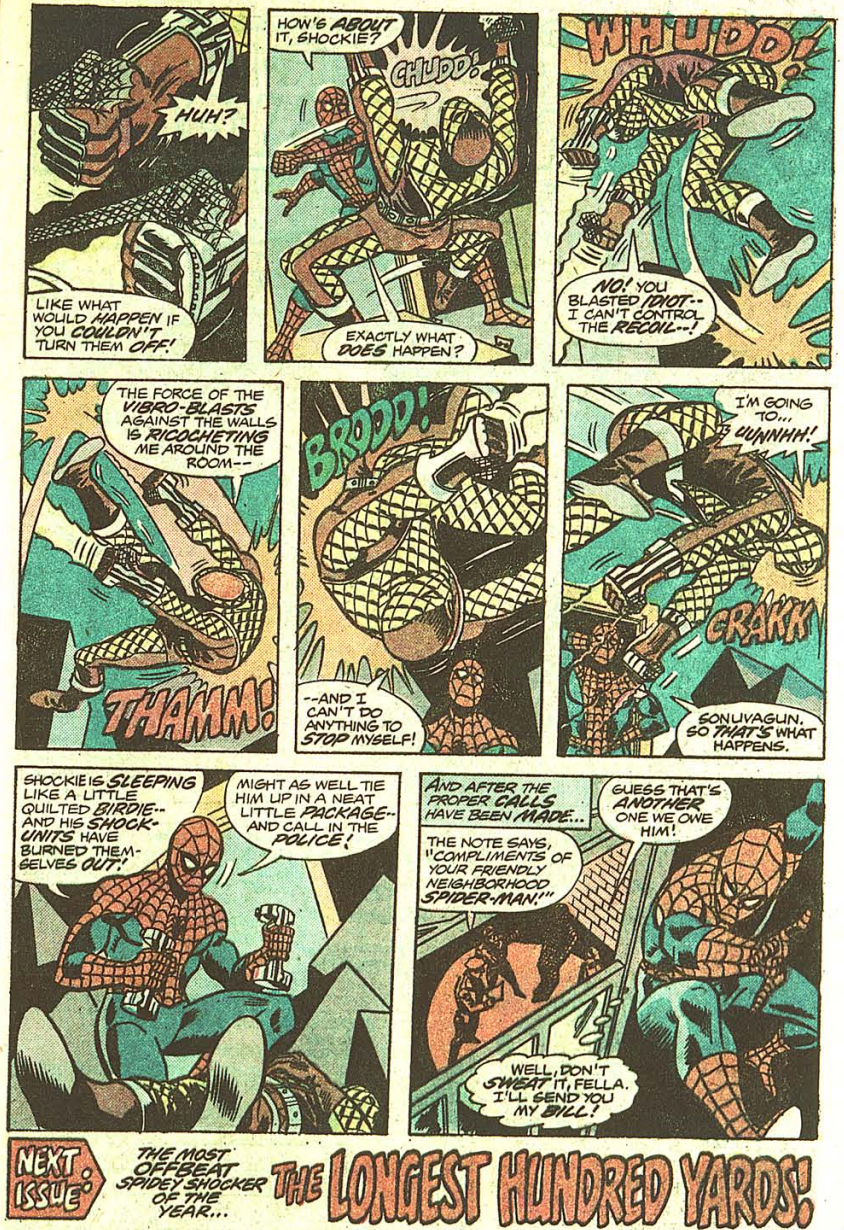

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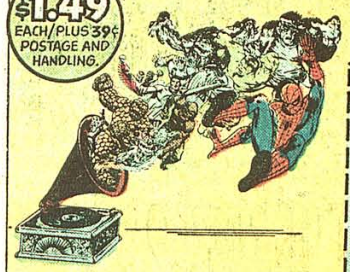

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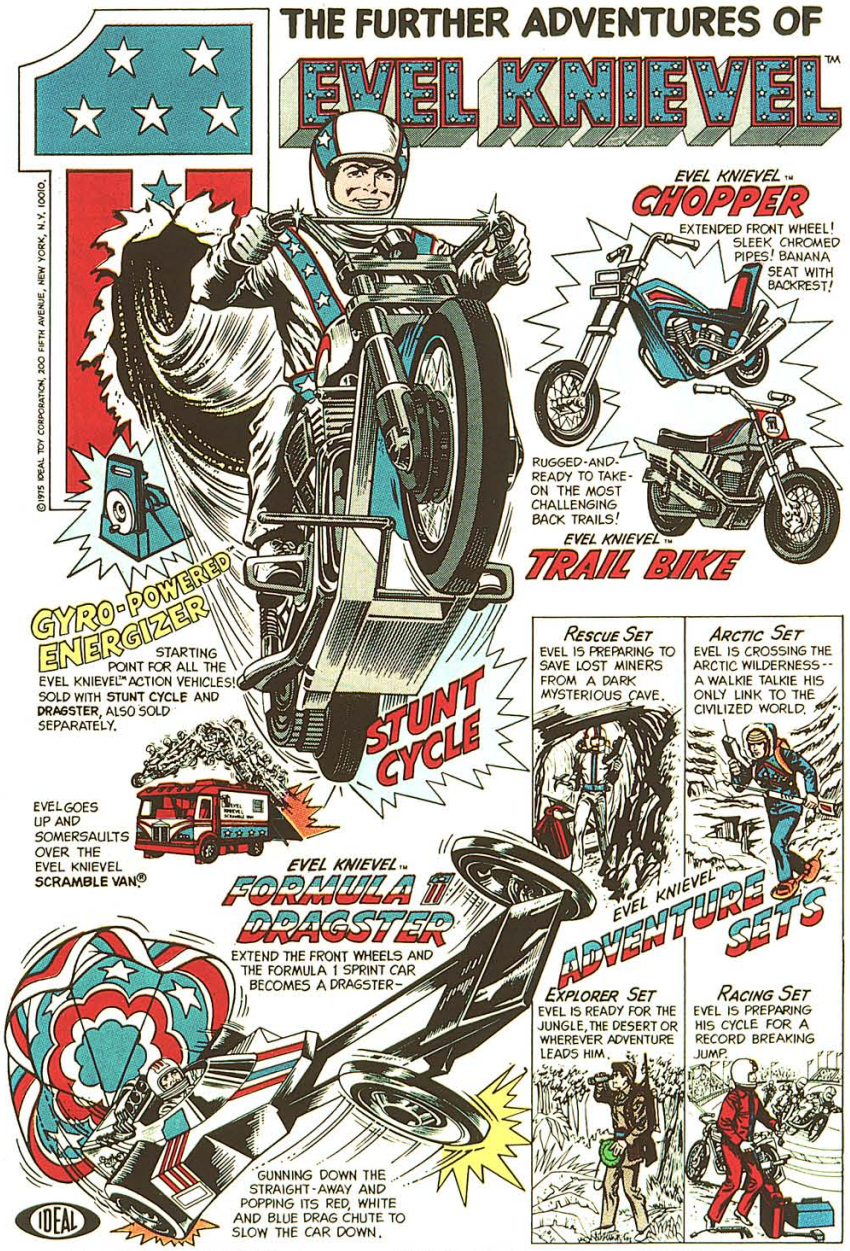

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